

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a outrageous example of partisan abuse of their license to use the public airwaves. It is an example of why the former requirement that partisan broadcasts should always be followed by the opportunity for the opposition to air their side issue.

The FCC should take immediate steps to publicly censure this decision by Sinclair and prohibit the broadcast unless equal time, in an equally favorable time slot is given to the Kerry Campaign.

This decision is also a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.

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